

6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the digital image is a multi-bit image.

7. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) An apparatus for printing an image comprising:
a raster image processor for converting the image into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information;
a rendering circuit for receiving the digital bitmap from the raster image processor for:
identifying each pixel as background pixels or foreground pixels;
reassigning the digital value of one or more edge pixels or interior pixels independently;
adding the digital values of foreground pixels after reassigning;
and,
estimating toner usage based on the sum of the added values.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a writer interface which receives the digital pixel values and facilitates exposure of a latent image on an exposure medium.